(Rs. per quintal)

CIP	APL	BPL	AAY
Rice	830	565	300
Wheat	610	415	200

(c) Does not arise.

Sugar prices

605. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sugar prices were growing up since last one year due to shortage of sugar production;

(b) if so, Government's reaction there to and the steps taken or proposed to be taken for stabilizing the sugar prices;

(c) whether Government have exported sugar to other countries, particularly Pakistan despite its shortage; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The production of cane sugar in the sugar year (October - September) 2004-05 was 130 lakh M.Ts as against the estimated production of 182 lakh M.Ts in the current sugar year 2005-06. The average retail price of sugar in the four principal markets of the country during the calendar year 2004 was in the range of Rs. 13.25 - 19.00 per Kg. whereas in the year 2005 it has been in the range of Rs. 17.50-20.50 per Kg.

(b) To pre-empt unreasonable hike in sugar prices on account unhealthy speculative tendency, if any, and creation of artificial shortage by holding back the released mandatory free sale sugar quota by unscrupulous sugar mills, the Government have, *inter-alia,* decided to take the following steps to stabilize the prices:

(i) Mandatory sale of free sale quota released for a particular month within the stipulated period,

(ii) Convert the unsold/unders patched quantity of free sale sugar into levy sugar,

(iii) Activate the enforcement/checks of the sugar mills on random basis,

(iv) Assess the possibility of facilitating imports through Tariff Rate Quota mechanism of sugar in long term, notwithstanding the extant operational scheme of raw sugar imports under Advance License Scheme.

(v) Resort to adequate additional release of free sale quota into the open market to tame prices.

(vi) Closely and constantly monitor the price of sugar in the country for taking necessary fiscal/non-fiscal measures as warranted.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

Shortage in foodgrain stock

606. SHRIMATI S. G. INDIRA: Will the Minister CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foodgrain stock in 2002 was 65 million tonnes and that the availability had come down to 15 million tonnes during the last year as against 22 million tonnes required for food security;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the country is fast heading for an acute food shortage and that no country in the world is so much food surplus now to make our shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The total stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool as on 1.6.2002 was 64.72 million tonnes. The stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool, *viz-a-viz* the buffer norms during last year was as follows: